

EXHIBIT 1
DATE 3-10-09
HB 559

House Bill 559
March 10, 2009
Presented by Hank Warsech
House Fish Wildlife and Parks Committee

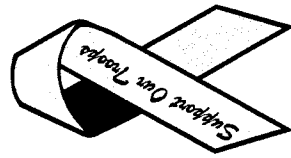
Mr. Chairman and committee members, for the record I am Hank Warsech, License Bureau Chief for Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP). I am here as an informational witness for HB 559.

Under current law, active duty Montana residents who participated in contingency operation after September 11, 2001, are entitled to a free sportsman license (without bear) for up to five years, once they are released from active duty. Last year FWP issued 1,031 "Free Military Recognition Sportsman Licenses" to individuals who had been released from active duty and met the requirements of the law. I don't have the exact break down, but I believe that a majority of these licenses are issued to National Guard and Air Guard who were activated and deployed from Montana. I handed out a card with my testimony that FWP developed to help inform returning military and the public of the current law.

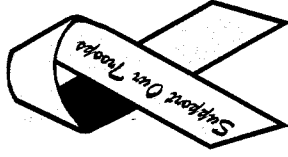
I have talked to a few individuals who were still on active duty and questioned why they were not entitled to receive the free license. I explained that they would be entitled to free licenses once they were released from active duty, and all but a couple were satisfied with the current situation.

As a point of clarification, under HB 559 Montana resident on active duty would be entitled to five years of free licenses while in the service and would be entitled to an additional five years of free licenses under the current law once they were released from active duty.

Thank you.



WELCOME HOME MILITARY RECOGNITION LICENSES



Montana is proud of your service.

In accordance with 87-2-803(12) MCA, Montana resident members of the Montana National Guard, Federal Reserve or Active Duty who participated after September 11, 2001 in a contingency operation as provided in 10 U.S.C. 101(a)(13) that required the member to serve at least 2 months outside of the state are eligible for a free sportsman without bear licenses or a free fishing license for up to five years.

To take advantage of these licenses you must obtain the license in the year that you returned from military service or in the following year. If you were released from active duty on or before 2007 and did not take advantage of this license by 2008, you are no longer eligible.

These licenses are available at any regional FWP office or at the FWP headquarters in Helena. You must provide proof of residency and your DD form 214 verifying your release from active duty and documentation showing that the you participated in a contingency operation as provided in 10 U.S.C. 101(a)(13). Free sportsman without bear licenses require a payment of the resident hunting access enhancement fee of \$2.00.

Once certified in the system, you can obtain the military recognition licenses at any FWP license provider in the state for the next four years.